

Ecoglo Exit Signs FAQs



Q *How much do they cost?*

A Most commonly less than \$50+GST trade price, but signs that need to be seen from more than 16 metres cost more, and if brackets are required to mount the signs from a ceiling, or sticking out from a wall, the cost is an extra \$20.

Q *Do they need an electrical light installed near them?*

A No, they are designed to make use of the existing light in the building.

Q *How long do they last?*

A A minimum of 30 years when installed indoors before there would be any measurable change in performance, and 15 - 30 years outdoors.

Q *What maintenance is required?*

A Make sure they are cleaned of dust or dirt build up. If the building doesn't need any other emergency lighting, in many cases Ecoglo exit signs will not need to be part of the annual building WOF schedule.

Q *F8/AS1 requires that they be illuminated with a minimum of 100 lux to make sure they are charged ready for an emergency. What if there isn't 100 lux where the sign needs to be?*

A Ecoglo signs are designed to work in most normal lighting situations. Ecoglo's professional engineer can design an alternative solution to meet F8 in situations where there is as little as 55 lux available. This is a free service. Contact Ecoglo (engineer@ecoglo.com) for details.

Q *F8/AS1 says "LED lighting shall not be used for charging photoluminescent material." Does this mean Ecoglo exit signs can't be used if the building is lit with LEDs?*

A No. Any lighting, including LEDs, with a colour temperature of 4000K or more, is suitable for charging Ecoglo exit signs. The wording of F8/AS1 is due to be changed in the near future to remove that sentence.

Q *Do the lights near the exit signs need to be turned on before the building is occupied?*

A No. Ecoglo exit signs have been independently tested to confirm they meet the F8/AS1 luminance (brightness) requirement for Risk Group C buildings¹ after at most, 5 minutes charging at 100 lux.

Q *What happens if there is a lights-out emergency in the first 5 minutes of occupation?*

A In most cases a sign will have sufficient residual charge from when there was light on it before, but even if the sign has become fully discharged and someone enters a dark space and turns on a light, the signs will meet the F8/AS1 brightness requirement for a longer evacuation time than the time since the light was turned on. By the time 5 minutes has elapsed the signs will have the full 30 minutes charge required for Risk Group C buildings.

Q *How reliable are they?*

A They have no moving parts or components that will need replacing. As long as they are installed where there are normal indoor light levels, and they are kept reasonably clean, and not physically damaged, they will be visible in an emergency for the time required by F8 and F6 for at least 30 years.

Q *Where are they made?*

A They are designed and manufactured in Christchurch, using a unique process that was developed locally, over fifteen years ago.

Q *Where can they be used?*

A Ideal places are in building spaces that are normally occupied when the signs may need to be used, such as classrooms, offices, meeting rooms, retail spaces, factories, and warehouses. In these places if the space becomes dark, the occupier will turn on a light, making sure that the signs remain well charged. Ecoglo Exit signs can also be used in spaces that aren't normally occupied (such as corridors, linking rooms and stairwells), but there needs to be a management process for making sure that the signs are always sufficiently charged when someone may need to use them. Contact Ecoglo for more details.

Q *Who can install them?*

A Anyone who knows how to put a screw into a wall, and knows where the exit signs need to be installed to meet F8.

Q *What are their environmental credentials?*

A They are made in New Zealand in a factory that uses electricity (from a supplier committed to sustainable electricity production) as its only energy source. The factory creates no commercial liquid effluent, and negligible air emissions. The signs have no replaceable parts which would need to be disposed of, and no cadmium, mercury or radioactive material. They normally don't require any electricity to be used to keep them charged. They have an extremely long life, and if for any reason they need to be disposed of, they can be included with other aluminium products for aluminium recycling.

Q *Can they be used outdoors?*

A Yes, they are designed to meet the rigours of long term outdoor exposure in our harsh Southern Hemisphere environment. No matter what the weather, they can meet the requirements of F8 for several hours after sunset, or 24/7 when the distance they need to be seen from is no more than half their rated viewing distance. Contact Ecoglo for specific details.

¹ Almost all buildings with less than 1000 occupants are Risk Group C

Ecoglo F6 Products FAQ



Q *How much do they cost?*

A The cost varies as it can be dependent on several different factors, such as number of steps, length of pathway, whether or not you are already installing step nosing for example - a factor which may reduce your overall costs. In the majority of situations the cost is substantially less than the alternative option (electrical emergency lighting).

Q *Do they need electrical light installed near them?*

A No, they are designed to utilise the existing light in the building, be it daylight or electrical. Outdoors, daylight is sufficient to ensure they will work 24/7.

Q *How long do they last?*

A A minimum of 30 years when installed indoors before there would be any measurable change in performance, and 15 - 30 years outdoors.

Q *What maintenance is required?*

A Make sure they are cleaned of dust or dirt build up. Ecoglo recommends a 6-monthly check to meet the building's Compliance Schedule requirements, to enable annual sign-off for the Building's Warrant of Fitness (BWOFF).

Q *Ecoglo's information states that specified features¹ be illuminated with a minimum charge of 20 lux continuously during occupancy of Group C buildings² and 60 lux continuously during occupancy of Group B buildings³. What if these illumination requirements aren't currently met?*

A Ecoglo F6 products are designed to work in most normal lighting situations. Ecoglo's professional engineer can, in many circumstances, design an alternative solution to meet F6. This is a free service. Contact Ecoglo (engineer@ecoglo.com) for details.

Q *Do the lights near the products need to be turned on before the building is occupied?*

A No. Ecoglo photoluminescent products will, in most situations, achieve full operational charge in well under 5 minutes because of residual charge left in them from previous use.

Q *What happens if there is a lights-out emergency in the first 5 minutes of occupation?*

A In most cases Ecoglo products will have sufficient residual charge from when there was light on them before, but even if the product has become fully discharged and someone enters a dark space and turns on a light, Ecoglo F6 products will meet the F6 brightness requirement for a longer evacuation time than the time since the light was turned on. By the time 5 minutes has elapsed the products will have the full 30 minutes charge required for Risk Group C buildings and the full 90 minutes required for Risk Group B buildings.

Q *How reliable are they?*

A They have no moving parts or components that will need replacing. As long as they are installed where there are normal indoor light levels, and they are kept reasonably clean, and not physically damaged, they will be visible in an emergency for the time required by F8 and F6 for at least 30 years.

Q *Where are they made?*

A They are designed and manufactured in Christchurch, using a unique process that was developed locally, over fifteen years ago.

Q *Where can they be used?*

A Ecoglo F6 products can be used anywhere they can be sufficiently charged when someone may need to use them. Our products are in use throughout New Zealand and overseas in hospitals, educational facilities, apartment blocks, office blocks, hotels, retail spaces, factories, warehouses, theatres, sports stadiums and many other types of building. Contact Ecoglo for more details.

Q *Who can install them?*

A We recommend that a qualified building trades-person installs them in accordance with the Ecoglo installation instructions. The installer will need to complete the Ecoglo PS3 form (available on the website [www.ecoglo.co.nz] in the Technical section under Installation Instructions) to confirm that the installation has been carried out in accordance with Ecoglo instructions.

Q *What are their environmental credentials?*

A They are made in New Zealand in a factory that uses electricity (from a supplier committed to sustainable electricity production) as its only energy source. The factory creates no commercial liquid effluent, and negligible air emissions. The products have no replaceable parts which would need to be disposed of, and no cadmium, mercury or radioactive material. They normally don't require any electricity to be used to keep them charged. They have an extremely long life, and if for any reason they need to be disposed of, they can be included with other aluminium products for aluminium recycling.

Q *Can they be used outdoors?*

A Yes, our F6 products are designed to meet the rigours of long term outdoor exposure in our harsh Southern Hemisphere environment. No matter what the weather, the requirements of F6 are met 24/7 when installed outdoors.

¹ Eg stairs, ramps, escape doors, handrails, changes in direction

² Almost all buildings with less than 1000 occupants are Risk Group C

³ A building with over 1000 occupants and whose occupants are not required to remain in the building during an emergency